

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 11 and 12 are currently pending in this application. Claims 11 and 12 are independent. New claims 13-18 have been added by this reply. Claims 13-15 depend directly on independent claim 11. Further, claims 16-18 depend directly on independent claim 12.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the drawings filed on March 16, 2004, are acceptable.

Claim Amendments

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to clarify that the peripheral device is a “scanner” and that the given condition is “control information,” which is used when acquiring the print data. Support for the aforementioned amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 12 and pages 20-22 of the referenced application. In addition, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to address minor antecedent basis issues. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,791,703 (“Maeda”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 11 and 12, as amended, recite a print acceptance screen that includes three areas: (i) a first area specifying a *scanner* from which to acquire print data; (ii) a second area specifying control information, which indicates various constraints on the print data acquired by the scanner (*e.g.*, resolution, color palette, scanner mode, etc.); and (iii) a third area specifying a network printer for printing the acquired print data.

Turning to the rejection, for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Maeda does not disclose all the limitations of the claimed invention.

Specifically, the Applicant respectfully asserts that Maeda fails to teach at least the following limitations:

- (i) “a first area for a user to specify a scanner to acquire print data” – Maeda fails to disclose acquiring print data from a scanner. In fact, Maeda is completely silent with respect to using a scanner; and
- (ii) “a second area for the user to specify control information for the scanner to use when acquiring the print data” – The Examiner has asserted that “option file” disclosed in Maeda is equivalent to the information in the second area as recited in the claims (*See* Advisory Action mailed March 17, 2006, p. 2). The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the options file stores conditions for controlling the print utility (*see* Maeda, col. 7, ll. 27-31), which in turn controls

the printer (*see* Maeda, col. 9, ll. 55-67). In contrast, the second area, as recited in the claims, includes control information, where the control information is used by the *scanner* when it is acquiring the print data. Thus, the options file disclosed in Maeda is not equivalent to the information specified in the second area of the print screen of the claimed invention as the options file controls the printing while the control information controls acquisition of the print data from the scanner.

In view of the above, amended independent claims 11 and 12 are patentable over Maeda. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 13-18 have been added by this reply. Support for the newly added claims may be found, for example, in Figure 12 and pages 20-22 of the referenced application. No new matter has been added by any of the new claims.

As discussed above, claims 13-15 depend from amended independent claim 11 and claims 16-18 depend from amended independent claim 12. Thus, claims 13-18 are patentable over Maeda for at least the same reasons as amended independent claims 11 and 12 for the reasons discussed above.

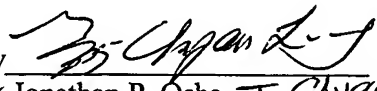
Further, the Maeda fails to teach or suggest specifying (i) the resolution of the print data that is being acquired; (ii) the mode of the scanner when it is acquiring the print data; or (iii) the number of pages of print data the scanner is to acquire. Thus, claims 13-18 are patentable over Maeda for these additional reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/012002).

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